

ARTICLES

What Are Articles?

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific

Types of Articles:

- Definite article (The)
- Indefinite article (A/ An)

1. The definite article:

The definite article is the word *the*. It limits the meaning of a noun to one **particular thing**.

Example:

- Please give me the **hammer**.
- Please give me the **red hammer**; the **blue one** is too small.

2. The indefinite article:

The indefinite article indicates that a noun refers as a **general idea**.

Forms of indefinite articles:

The indefinite article takes two forms.

- When a word begins with a consonant, **a** is used before the word.
- When a word begins with a vowel or vowel sound, **an** is used before word.

Examples

- Please pass me a book.
- Can I buy an umbrella?
- He is an honest man.

(An is used because the sound produced while pronouncing honest is of **o** which is a vowel therefore **an** is used. Apparently, **A** should have been used because **h** is a consonant but the sound production prevents us from doing so)

a. Usage of articles:

Articles can be used with adjectives:

The word order is **article** + **adjective** + **noun**

Example:

- John will bring a **small** **gift** to Bob's party.
- I heard **an** **interesting** **story** yesterday.

b. **Articles can be used with countable nouns:**

Example:

- Please give me **a** bottle of water.
- Give me the bottle of water.
(There are many drinking items available but someone is only interested in water)
- Please give me **an** ice cube.
Give me the ice cube.
(Someone has asked someone to make him a large ice cube and he only interested in water.)
- We need **a** light in this room.
- Bring me the light in this room.
(someone is just demanding light and nothing else)

c. **When articles are not:**

Article is omitted before nouns that refer to abstract ideas. /Articles are not used with abstract ideas or abstract nouns.

Examples:

- Let's go out for dinner tonight.
[Let's go out for **a** dinner tonight. **Incorrect**]
- Creativity is a valuable quality in children
[**The** creativity is a valuable quality in children. **Incorrect**]

Many languages and nationalities do not need an article.

Examples:

- Pakistanis are very hospitable
[The Pakistanis are very hospitable. Incorrect]
- Urdu is the official language of Pakistan.
[The Urdu is the official language of Pakistan. Incorrect]

Sports and academic subjects do not require articles.

Examples:

- I like to play football.
[I like to play the football. Incorrect]
- He is good at drawing.
[He is good at the drawing. Incorrect]

Abstract nouns: advice, anger, beauty, confidence, courage, employment, fun, happiness, health, honesty, information, intelligence, knowledge, love, poverty, satisfaction, truth, wealth.

Substances: Sugar, Gold, Petrol, Crude oil.

One's relations: Father, brother, mother, sister, cook.

However, definite article can be used to specify relationships in some situations

EXAMPLE:

- The sister (the sister told all the secrets of her brother)
- The Father (The father is standing silently)
- The cook (The cook completed his eight weeks training last week)

IMPORTANT:

- Use the definite article **the** with any noun (whether singular or plural, count or noncount) when the specific identity of the noun is known.

Example: I ate an apple yesterday. The apple was juicy and delicious.

- To tell some thing is unique

Example: The federal Budget of 2019.

The provincial tax.

- Before proper nouns

Example: The West Indies, The Arabian sea, The Atlantic Ocean, The Holy Quran.